

ORGANIZATIONS & MEMORIALS

DRAWER 10C

Contemporaries

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

Stephen A. Douglas
Organizations & Memorials

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Journal
April 24, 1937

PAGE TWO

DOUGLAS GROUP IS FORMED AT MEETING HERE

Birthday Anniversary Of
"Little Giant" Marked
At Ceremonies.

Formation of a Stephen A. Douglas association which has as its purpose to "acquaint residents of Springfield with the greatness of Stephen A. Douglas," was effected at ceremonies held last night in Douglas school in commemoration of the 124th anniversary of the birth of the "Little Giant."

Isaac R. Diller, said to be the only living Springfield resident who knew Mr. Douglas personally, was elected president of the association. A. E. Rouland was named vice president; Bruce E. Wheeler, secretary-treasurer; and Judge Roger E. Chapin, H. E. Pratt, Judge Benjamin S. DeBoice and Edward Anderson were elected to the executive committee.

In addition to disseminating information about Stephen A. Douglas, the organization plans to make the birthday program an annual affair. Frank E. Stevens, author of "Life of Stephen A. Douglas," was the principal speaker. Judge Chapin was chairman and Rev. H. M. Hildebrandt gave the invocation. The Lanphier High school band, directed by Edwin Sach, played several numbers.

Sangamon County Bible Society

ORGANIZED 1824

OFFICERS

CHARLES F. KOEHN
President
ROBERT H. PATTON
Vice-President
CARL U. LUERS
Treasurer
ISAAC R. DILLER
Secretary

Auxiliary of American Bible Society

ORGANIZED 1816

Springfield, Illinois

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EDWARD ANDERSON
MRS. IRA B. BLACKSTOCK
MRS. S. W. HAYES
EDWARD D. HENRY
MISS LAVINIA R. SMITH
SAMUEL J. WILLETT
MRS. JOHN YORK

April 24th 1937

Dr Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Friend -

I have just received No 419 Lincoln
Love, and the account of Vose's Lincoln is very inter-
esting. I find I lack 57 numbers out of the list, but
feel glad I have that many, and enclose an extra
copy No 223, which may help some one else out.

While I am said by H. W. Fay to be the only living
person ever taken in a picture with Lincoln, I also
heard Stephen A. Douglas make a speech here in 1860,
and my father placed me on his shoulder so I could see
him, and remember how he looked and the tones of
his voice, but of course not his words. When Blind Tom
once gave a concert here, he gave a repetition of a speech
he heard him make in South Carolina, and at that time
many were living who had heard him, including my
father who knew him well, and said his reproduction
was perfect. One of our public schools only a block
away from my home is named for him, Douglas
School, and I had advocated with the principals the
honor of observing his birth day for many years,
and last year it was done, and Hon Frank E. Stevens,
who wrote a splendid Life of Stephen A. Douglas, gave
the address. The second observance was held last
night with Mr Stevens again giving the address, and
at the close a simple organization effected, of which

I was made president. This will insure the continuance of this appropriate service, as I will be 83 in July, so some one else can carry on, while Douglas has been so overshadowed by Lincoln, his worthwhile services to his state and Nation should be honored. It is sometimes stated that I knew Lincoln, but I only claim to have seen him, and the same is true about Douglas. I enclose a clipping from this morning's Journal about the meeting. I think I wrote you about Lincoln being a "Twice Born" Man, and whether the same was true about Douglas, I cannot say, but I heard Rev William Prentice, a presiding Elder of the M. E. Church say, that while Douglas was Senator he called on him in Washington. They had been friends their younger days, before Prentice had become a Christian. In the course of their conversation Douglas said, "Will, I do not suppose you know that at one time I debated whether I would enter the ministry or continue to follow the law and politics. You did the former and it might have been better if I had also. So you made the wiser choice." Whether he ever made such a statement to any other man, I do not know, but Elder Prentice would not have made the statement if he had not confided that fact with him. It was Elder Prentice who helped my father to take his stand for Christ, although his name was not given in the enclosed testimony. If I have not sent you the latest copy of the Lincoln Home picture, but enclose one to make sure - Yours very truly
Isaac R. Diller
511 West Carpenter St

Lincoln Octogenarian Club To Honor Douglas Memorial

The youngest men fear
which idea of the Lincoln
Memorial of the nation
has been well known
the name of Lincoln's Octogenarian Club
on Saturday, No.

April 27, 1937

The purpose of the club
which is to be held at the
Lincoln Memorial in Washington
on Saturday, April 27, 1937
the club will be held at the
Lincoln Memorial in Washington

Mr. Isaac R. Diller
511 West Carpenter Street
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mr. Diller:

Thank you for your very interesting letter and also
for the information relative to the organization of the
Douglas Group of which you are President.

Of course I have always remembered Douglas's birthday
because I happen to have been born on April 23 myself.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the clipping and
also the picture of the Lincoln home which you enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:EB

Lincoln Octogenarian Club To Honor Douglas' Memory

Five Springfield men, four of whom knew or saw Lincoln, all members of the Lincoln Octogenarian club, will lay a wreath on the tomb of Stephen A. Douglas in Chicago, Saturday, Nov. 15.

Participating in the ceremony, which is arranged by the American Pioneer guild, will be R. C. Keys, J. L. Roll, Putney Hopkins, Isaac Diller, and Herbert Wells Fay.

The five men, on the day of the ceremony, will meet with the legislative committee created by the general assembly to consider moving of Douglas' tomb, to express their views on that subject. Representative Roland V. Libonati, Democrat of Chicago, is chairman of the committee. Senator Frank Ryan, Chicago, will preside at the wreath placing ceremonies.

The guild's plan to honor Douglas at the present time is based on the fact that, despite his years of political rivalry with Lincoln, Douglas, following Lincoln's election to the presidency, urged the nation to rally in support of the president.

Douglas' dying words for his two sons who were in Washington were:

"Tell them to obey the laws and to support the constitution of the United States."

The five Springfield men will be guests in Chicago of the Morrison hotel, the Chicago Historical society and the Hobby Publishing Co. On Sunday following the tomb ceremony they will attend the Chicago Historical society's "Lincoln Dioramas" in Lincoln park, Chicago, at which Carl Sandburg, and other notables will be guests.

All five of the local men have some special association with, or memory of, Lincoln. Herbert Wells Fay is custodian of the Lincoln tomb and is famous over the nation as a Lincoln collector; R. C. Keys is the only known living man to have bade Lincoln goodbye when the president left for Washington;

J. L. Roll, who was given the Lincoln dog when the family left Springfield, is the son of a man who helped Lincoln build his famous flatboat; Putney Hopkins is the last man living to have seen the face of Lincoln on the last occasion the casket of the emancipator was opened; Isaac Diller is the only living man to have been photographed with Lincoln.

In the spirit of unity for which Abraham Lincoln lived and died, these men will pay homage to the memory of Stephen A. Douglas, one of Lincoln's greatest contemporaries. Ill Jour Nov 2-41



The Douglas Tomb



Chicago's Oldest
Sculptured Monument

FROM the top of a 104-foot column, a 9-foot 9-inch statue of Stephen A. Douglas overlooks the tracks of the Illinois Central railroad, which the gifted son of Illinois helped to organize.

The base of the monument, in the center of Stephen A. Douglas Monument park at 35th st., contains the Douglas sarcophagus.

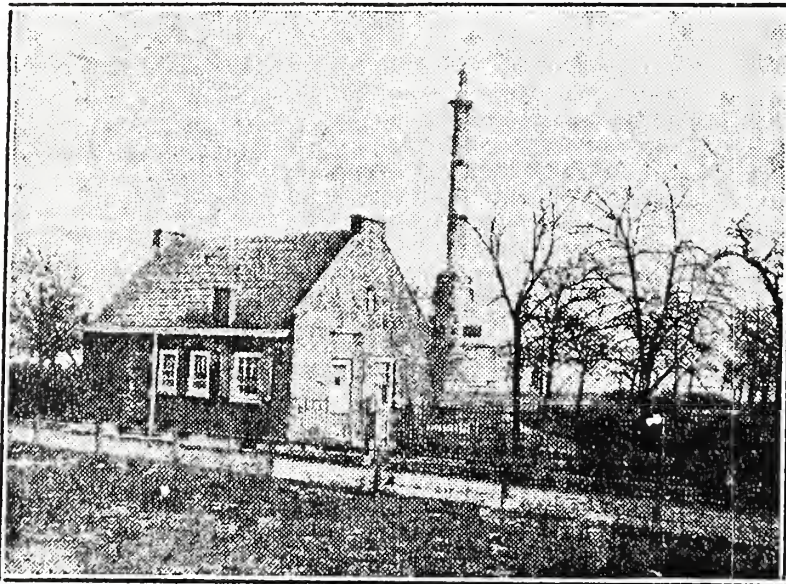
The State of Illinois acquired the site in 1865 as a gift from the statesman's wife. The monument, designed by Leonard Volk, was erected in 1878.

According to Glen D. Palmer, director of the state conservation department, improvements costing \$23,000 will be made to the fence and custodian's house (right).

The Little Giant, as he was nicknamed, was a famous orator, a senator from Illinois and Abraham Lincoln's chief rival for the presidency in 1860.



IN HONOR OF "THE LITTLE GIANT".



ON this spot at Thirty-fifth street and Lake Park avenue once stood the home of Stephen A. Douglas, best known by present generations because of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. In the background stands the Douglas sarcophagus and monument. Although a native of Virginia, the name of Douglas is most closely associated with the history of Illinois, which he represented in the United States senate. Ruggedly opposing Abraham Lincoln with his powerful oratory, Douglas became, out of sheer patriotism, a warm supporter of the emancipator.

[TRIBUNE Photo.]



**STEPHEN
DOUGLAS**

Memorial



STATE OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS TOMB AND MONUMENT

Most appropriately the Stephen A. Douglas Tomb and Monument is located on a tract that was the home of the "Little Giant." In Chicago, just west of Lake Michigan, the Leif Eriksen Drive and the Illinois Central railroad tracks at 35th Street, is a beautiful little park of 2.2 acres in the center of which stands the impressive memorial.

Illinois' first nationally known figure died in Chicago June 3, 1861. The following October a group of his friends met in Chicago and organized the Douglas Monument Association. The purpose of this organization was to erect and maintain a monument in Chicago in memory of Stephen A. Douglas. A fund was to be collected for these purposes. Leonard W. Volk, the well-known sculptor and a relative of Douglas by marriage, was commissioned to design the memorial.

On the southern edge of Chicago Douglas had purchased in 1849 a tract of 53 acres which he called "Oakenwald." In 1854 he expressed a willingness to help with the founding of Chicago University; not to be confused with the present University of Chicago. Two years later he deeded 10 acres to be used as a campus and he was elected president of the school, which position he held until his death.

Following his death his remains laid in state in one of the university buildings until interred. A few hundred feet east of the campus stood the Douglas Cottage and this was deeded to the association by his mother and sister.

Funds for the building of the tomb and monument were slow in materializing. The General Assembly failed to



make an appropriation in 1863 and designer Volk only realized \$2,500 from the sale of photographs. The Governor was authorized in 1865 to purchase the property for the State as a Tomb for Douglas and for no other purpose.

The sum of \$25,000 was appropriated for the purchase and Mrs. Adele Douglas, the widow, conveyed the property to the State. Following the building of the first stage, Douglas' body was placed in the sarcophagus June 3, 1868. He is the only one buried there.

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed Volk's designs. New appropriations of \$50,000 were made in 1877 and \$9,000 in 1879. Volk was awarded his last contract in 1880. The Tomb was considered complete May 5, 1881. Of the total cost of \$90,000, \$84,000 were State funds.

The commission appointed by the General Assembly to handle the building of the Tomb were J. D. Caton, Robert T. Lincoln, B. F. Findley, Thomas Drummond, Lyman Trumbull, Melville W. Fuller, Potter Palmer, Ralph Plumb and Gustav Koerner.

The Tomb and Monument are of a style common to its period, another monument of the same type being the Grant Monument in Lincoln Park, Chicago. The Douglas Memorial consists of a granite base surmounted by a 46-foot column supporting a bronze figure of Douglas nine feet nine inches high.

Four bronze allegorical figures representing Illinois, History, Justice and Eloquence are placed at the corners of the sarcophagus-like base. The shaft is 104 feet high.

Douglas' body is in a sarcophagus of Vermont marble from his home county. It supports a bust portrait of him by Volk. Originally the base and sepulchre were made of Joliet "Athens Marble," now only the door sill is of that material. All of the exposed material was changed to granite in 1877.

The base of the monument contains a crypt with the marble sarcophagus containing the remains of Illinois' gifted son. It bears the following inscription.

Stephen A. Douglas

Born

April 23, 1813

Died

June 3, 1861

"Tell my children to obey the laws and uphold the Constitution."

Douglas was born in Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont on April 23, 1813. He moved to Winchester, Illinois in 1833 and here he taught and resumed the study of law. Admitted to the bar in 1834, he commenced his practice in Jacksonville and was elected State's Attorney for Morgan County in 1835. He was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives in 1836-37 and in 1837 became Registrar of the Land Office in Springfield. In 1838 he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress.

During 1840-41 he served as Illinois Secretary of State and in 1841 was elected Judge of the Illinois Supreme Court where he served until his resignation on March 3, 1847 on his election to the Senate. He served as Senator until his death.

An unsuccessful candidate for the nomination for president on the Democratic ticket in 1852 and 1856, he received the nomination in 1860. Running against Abraham Lincoln, he received 12 electoral votes for President.



Quincy Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site

Write to the Division of Parks and Memorials, 100 State Office Building, Springfield, for further information concerning Illinois Parks and Memorials.

Eighty State Parks and Memorials are of easy access from every part of the State. Lodges and cabins are an important feature of Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City State Parks. Reservations should be made with lodge managers.

Issued by
DIVISION OF PARKS AND MEMORIALS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Room 100, State Office Building
Springfield, Illinois

370 36080-20M-6-61



douglas tomb

STATE HISTORIC SITE



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Conservation
life and land together

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douglas tomb

STATE HISTORIC SITE



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life and land together

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STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

Stephen A. Douglas was twenty years old in 1833 when he left his native Vermont for the frontier state of Illinois, where he arrived penniless and without friends. Within a year Douglas began practicing law in Morgan County. The young lawyer was a zealous admirer of Andrew Jackson and it was because of his defense of Jackson that the nickname of "The Little Giant" was given to him.

From an obscure beginning in Illinois politics, Douglas eventually became one of the nation's most influential men and one of the finest legislators in Illinois history. He was a member of the General Assembly from 1836 to 1837. In 1837, he was made Registrar of the Land Office in Springfield. Douglas served as Secretary of State of Illinois from 1840 to 1841. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1841 and remained in this post until 1843 when he became a United States Congressman. In 1847, he was selected to represent the state in the Senate. As a senator, Douglas was influential in guiding the nation through the turbulent era before the Civil War.

As a "western" senator, Douglas wanted legislation that would benefit both his section and Illinois. He was an early advocate of the transcontinental railroad with Chicago as the terminus. Douglas fought for a northern route even though a southern route through former Mexican territory seemed the most logical. It was to this end that he introduced the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854. To obtain southern support for his plan, Douglas allowed a rider to be attached to the bill. The rider proposed a repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which had prohibited the extension of slavery north of Missouri.

Northern opposition to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was an unexpected blow for Douglas. The senator saw slavery as a nebulous issue that would be settled either by climatic conditions or by popular sovereignty. Douglas was an influencing factor behind the Compromise of 1850 which provided for popular sovereignty in the territories. Under this plan each territory was to decide, by a mandate of its voters, if slavery would be acceptable. Although sovereignty seemed democratic, it failed in the long run. Neighboring slave states and free states would send its voters into the territory on election day to stuff the ballot box. Border warfare was also a result of the two ideologies trying to gain the upper hand. The term "Bleeding Kansas" has been used ever since to depict the struggle that ensued.

Douglas ran for re-election to the United States Senate in 1858. His opponent was a little known Illinois politician named Abraham Lincoln. It was during this campaign that the now famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates took place. The debates offered each man the opportunity to further express his opinions about the slavery question. Lincoln was not an abolitionist, but he did want to stop slavery from spreading into new areas. Douglas, who had seen a secession movement in 1850, believed that to prohibit the spread of slavery by legislation was to invite civil war.

Douglas won re-election in 1858. The debates, however, brought Lincoln into national prominence. The two men from Illinois faced each other again in the 1860 Presidential election. Douglas had waited a long time to be the Democratic Presidential candidate, but was defeated because of a badly divided party. After Lincoln's victory, Douglas went south to make personal appearances for sectional reconciliation. The times proved to be too volatile and Douglas failed to slow the secessionist movement.

Douglas had always been a firm believer in the Federal Union. When he saw that he was not going to stop the South from seceding, he returned to Washington to support Lincoln's war policy.

The new President was glad to have Stephen Douglas' assistance, for the senator was still influential in the old Northwest. In April 1861, Lincoln sent Douglas on a tour to increase support for the Union cause. Unfortunately, the senator had been in failing health for some time and died June 3, 1861, in Chicago. With the death of Stephen A. Douglas, Illinois lost a statesman and Lincoln lost a friend.

THE TOMB

In October, following Douglas' death, the Douglas Monument Association was founded by a group of his friends. Leonard W. Volk, a well known sculptor who was related to the deceased by marriage, was commissioned to design the monument. The site was sold to the State of Illinois by Douglas' widow. After setbacks with raising funds and losing Volk's design in the Chicago Fire of 1871, the monument was finally completed on May 5, 1881. Approximately \$90,000 was spent on the tomb; including \$84,000 of the state's funds.

The 96-foot tall Douglas Tomb has a granite base surmounted by a 40-foot column, which supports a nine foot, nine inch high bronze figure of Douglas. The tomb is

adorned with symbolic art depicting Douglas' contribution to his state and nation. There are three other panels which portray the advance of European civilization in America. Behind the tomb's iron outer door can be seen the white Vermont marble sarcophagus. It supports a bust of Douglas by Volk. The sarcophagus bears the following inscription: Stephen A. Douglas, born April 23, 1813, died June 3, 1861, "Tell my children to obey the laws and uphold the Constitution."

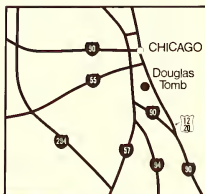
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site manager has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pate Marquette and Giant City. White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only, and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

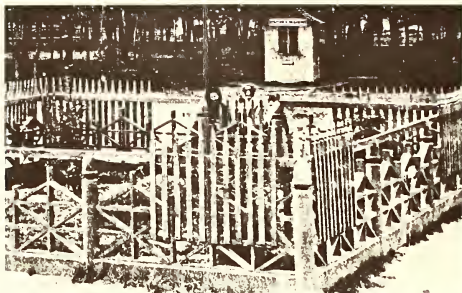
All state sites are open the year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Douglas Tomb, 636 E. 35th St., Chicago, IL 60616, phone 312/261-6353. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, Stratton Office Building, Springfield, 62706.





Douglass, taken about the time of the Lincoln-Douglass Debates.
Duncan-Ostendorf Archives



Douglass' Grave
Duncan-Ostendorf Archives



The earliest known photograph of Douglass, circa 1842.
Duncan-Ostendorf Archives

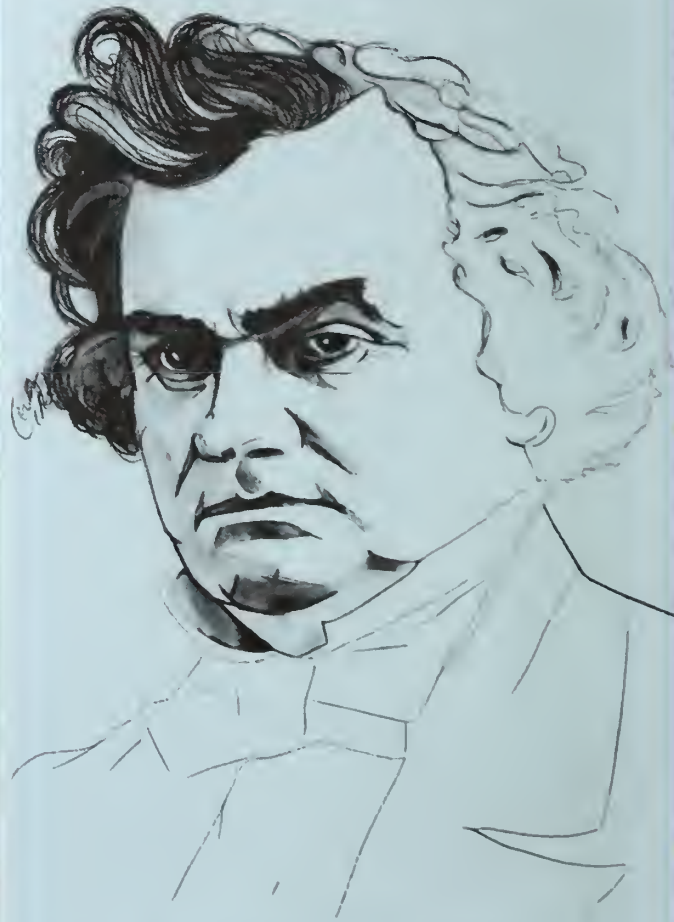


Leonard Volk working in his studio on the bust of Lincoln. Douglass' bust is behind him.
Duncan-Ostendorf Archives



Douglass' Home in Chicago. His widow is seated in the chair.
Duncan-Ostendorf Archives

the
**Stephen A.
Douglas**
Association



the Little Giant

portrait by Edward H. Weiss

"A man cannot be a true Democrat unless he is a loyal patriot."

It was because Richard J. Daley, Mayor of Chicago (1955-1976), admired the life and deeds of the Little Giant that the Stephen A. Douglas Association came into existence. There is much to commend in the accomplishments of Senator Douglas. His public career extended from 1835, when he was elected to the position of state's attorney by the Illinois legislature, to his death in 1861, while serving as a United States senator. In the intervening years, he had served as a representative in the Illinois legislature; registrar of the federal Lands Office in Springfield, Illinois; Illinois secretary of state; justice of the Illinois Supreme Court; and congressman in the United States House of Representatives. He is probably best remembered for his debates with Abraham Lincoln during the campaign for the United States Senate in the election of 1858, which he won.

Stephen Arnold Douglas was a resident of Chicago for the last fourteen years of his life. His tomb is an Illinois Historic Site. It is located in a beautiful little park at the eastern extremity of 35th Street in Chicago. Just east of and below the tomb are the Illinois Central tracks and Lake Michigan. It was in this area that Camp Douglas, the United States Army's recruiting camp and prison for captured Confederate soldiers, was located.

Mayor Daley shared his admiration for Douglas with his friend Ralph G. Newman, who was president of the board of directors of the Chicago Public Library. It had become a custom for the two men to visit



Stephen A. Douglas

Illinois State Historical Library

S. A. Douglas

the tomb on the anniversaries of Douglas' birth on April 23rd and his death on June 3rd. On April 23, 1975, Mayor Daley was the host of a luncheon honoring the memory of Senator Douglas. Mr. Newman acted as master of ceremonies for the occasion, and the assembled guests heard an address by Dr. John Y. Simon, of the history department of Southern Illinois University. Dr. Simon opened his address with this observation: "At SIU, I teach a course in 'Illinois History, from Father Marquette to Mayor Daley.' Now, at last, I've met one of these men."

Following Dr. Simon's remarks, Mayor Daley spoke, and announced the formation of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. The Association would meet every year on the anniversaries of its namesake's birth and death, and would conduct other ceremonies and meetings as might be appropriate. Its purpose would be to help to create interest in the life and deeds of the great Illinoisian. Shortly thereafter, at a meeting called by the founder in the mayor's office, Mr. Newman was selected to be the first president; Mayor Daley was to be the chairman of the board of directors. The Mayor suggested that the requirements for membership be simple and that the dues consist of a single payment of \$50, which would cover membership in perpetuity. He then wrote a personal check for \$50 to become the first member. This tradition was continued by Mayor Daley's successor, Michael A. Bilandic.

In recent years, with the cooperation and support of the Illinois Historic Preserva-

tion Agency, ceremonies have been held on a regular basis, on one Sunday a month during the summer, and on the anniversaries of the Senator's birth and death, at the beautifully landscaped Douglas tomb. Each program features the participation of people in period costume and the firing of three volleys from Civil War muskets. Brief remarks are made by one or more of the officers and by the honoree of each occasion. After the flag has been raised and lowered, it is presented to a distinguished guest. On the nearest Saturday to June 3rd, following ceremonies at the tomb, a luncheon is held at a centrally located site. The luncheon includes an address by a leading scholar of the period.

The Douglas Association issues a newsletter and, on occasion, sends special publications to its members, who are encouraged to participate in the endeavors of the Association. All of this is included in the one-time-only membership fee of \$50. There are no further costs to members, other than a charge for meals, when scheduled.

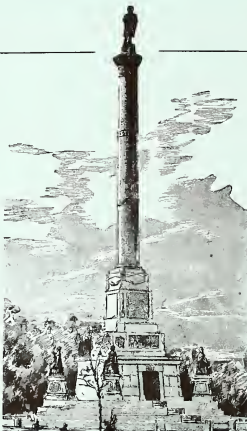
the Stephen A. Douglas Association

175 East Delaware Plaza

C/O David Richert
6959A N. Hamilton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

PHONE: 312/707-1000

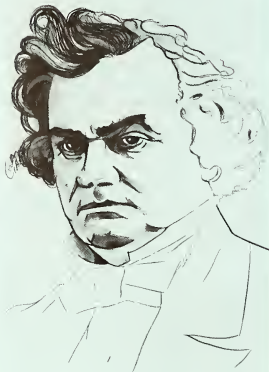
Rev'd. 2001



The Douglas Memorial was designed by Leonard W. Volk, well-known sculptor and a relative of Douglas by marriage. The 46-foot column supports a nine foot nine inch bronze figure of Douglas rising 100 feet above Lake Michigan. Each of the four pedestals at the base are occupied by life size statues, each differently composed and robed in classical garments, representing Illinois, History, Justice, and Eloquence.

The four bas-reliefs in the panels of the main base of the superstructure were also signed by Volk and depict the advance of civilization in America. They represent a native Indian scene; Pioneer Settlers; Commerce and Enterprise; and Education, the culmination of civilization.

the Stephen A. Douglas Association



the Little Giant

portrait by Edward H. Weiss

